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ABSTRACT

Results of a 1984 survey of statewide college admission standards are presented, based on responses from state higher education executive officers and college officials. Profiles for each state cover: the number and types of public institutions, who sets admission standards, current admission standards for in-state students, special admission policies, anticipated changes, and published information. Nearly one-half of the states have minimum admission requirements for public institutions. Nine states have an open admission policy, while 13 states require entering freshmen to meet a test score, minimum grade point average (GPA), class rank, and/or other performance standard. Nine states require or recommend a prescribed pattern of high school course work. Eleven states allow their colleges to impose additional admission requirements. A majority of the colleges in only one-half of these states, however, chose to raise performance standards. Sixteen states have recently enacted, or are proposing, more stringent admission policies. In every case, these changes include high school course-work requirements. Over half of the states do not have statewide admission policies. In most cases, a combination of class rank or minimum GPA and college entrance test scores was used to screen applicants.
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Margaret E. Goertz
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State Policies for Admission to Higher Education

**Margaret E. Goertz
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Educational Testing Service

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INTRODUCTION

In the early 1980s, the governing boards of public institutions of higher education (IHEs) and state higher education agencies began to question the adequacy of their college admission requirements. Students entering college were less well prepared; the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing Assessment (ACT) scores of freshmen had dropped during the decade of the 1970s, as had the percentage of high-scoring students. Students were also taking fewer college preparatory courses in 1980 than 10 years earlier. As student preparedness decreased, the scope and cost of remedial offerings in the colleges increased, and a growing number of college freshmen experienced academic problems. At the same time, many public university systems were under pressure to limit enrollments because of reductions in state financial support.

Many state higher education agencies, governing boards, and public colleges and universities have taken steps to raise their college admissions requirements. Little systematic information is available, however, about the substance of these actions, the number and types of institutions affected by them, or the potential impact of increased standards on access to higher education. To date, no one has compiled detailed descriptions of state-by-state requirements for admission to public colleges and universities. Existing reports focus either on admission standards of selected institutions of higher education in particular states or on a particular type of admission standard, such as required high school course work. None provide the degree of detail on score levels for admission tests, minimum grade point averages (GPAs), performance-based measures, or sliding scales that are needed to analyze the impact of state policies on opportunities for individuals to enter higher education.

The purpose of this study is to provide comprehensive information on statewide college admission standards. This report describes current state policies regulating admission to colleges and universities and special admission policies affecting subgroup populations in the 50 states and discusses trends in state admission policies.

Review of Existing Literature

In the last four years, five surveys of admission standards to public colleges and universities have been published (Rickes, 1983; Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), 1983; Thomson, 1982; Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), 1982; and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO)/College Board, 1980). Three of the surveys are national in scope; two are for states in the South or the West.

The three national reports surveyed different, but overlapping, populations. The most extensive survey, both in terms of the number of respondents (1,463 two- and four-year public and private postsecondary institutions of higher education) and breadth of the questionnaire, was

conducted by AACRAO and the College Board (1980). The data were analyzed by institutional type (e.g., two-year public, two-year private) and no state-specific information was presented. Thomson (1982) surveyed the presidents of 50 state universities to identify current admission standards and recent changes. The study includes only the requirements for admission to the main campus of each state's university, not those for other levels of the state's higher education system—state colleges and/or community colleges. In addition, Thomson does not specify whether a state agency or the institution has the authority to set these standards. Rickes (1983), on the other hand, uses this latter variable as a way of classifying states in her analysis. States are grouped into four categories: those that (1) establish minimum required-admission standards; (2) recommend minimum standards that will soon become requirements; (3) have an open admission policy; and (4) may recommend minimum standards. The study focuses, however, on current and anticipated high school course-work policies; other admission requirements are not reported for all states. It is also not clear from the state-by-state descriptions whether the reported standards apply to all public IHEs, or to selected units of the university system.

Two regional higher education organizations have studied college admission requirements as well. SREB (1983) published the high school course requirements recommended or required for college admission in 7 of its 14 member states. WICHE (1982) reported admission standards in the 8 Western states that proposed or enacted changes in 1982.

Study Methodology

The purpose of this study is to identify, collect, and describe statewide college admissions policies in effect in 1984-85 and to identify trends in state admission policies. A three-step data collection and analysis process was used. First, using the list of the 50 state higher education executive officers (SHEEOs), we contacted each state to identify the number and types of public IHEs in each state and the statutory authorities responsible for setting admission standards to these IHEs. Our respondents were also asked to describe changes in policies in the past, anticipated changes in policies, and special policies affecting subgroup populations. Requests were made for written materials describing statewide admission policies and for published information on any of the other topics.

Second, in those states where individual institutions are allowed to impose additional admission requirements or where no statewide policies are in effect, information on the admission requirements of a sample of public institutions in each state was collected. In a few cases, state higher education agencies publish admission standards for all public colleges and universities in their states. In most states, however, information had to be drawn directly from college catalogs. An attempt was made to obtain information on the state's "flagship" institution and on other institutions exhibiting a

range of admission standards from the Career Guidance Foundation College Catalog Collection, which is a microfiche compilation of 3,600 complete college catalogs from 2,900 institutions of higher learning. The collection, which is updated five times annually, includes unedited source documents (i.e., actual college catalogs). Included in the collection are domestic, U.S. territorial, and foreign institutions, state education directories, and miscellaneous special bulletins. If information was not included in this collection, we contacted institutions directly for copies of their catalogs. Data from 1984-85 catalogs were used wherever possible. If these were not available, information was drawn from 1983-84 catalogs.

Third, the written information was used to draft individual profiles for each of the states. The data were grouped into six categories:

- number and type of public IHEs
- institutions responsible for setting admission standards
- current admission standards
- special admission policies
- anticipated changes in policies
- published information

Follow-up telephone calls were made when necessary to clarify written materials or to collect missing information. Only the admission requirements for *in-state* students are reported. In-state students are usually defined as graduates of a particular state's high schools.

Organization of the Report

The remainder of this report is divided into three sections. The first section provides an overview of statewide admission standards in effect in 1984-85. In this section, the following questions are addressed: Who has the responsibility for setting admission standards? What kinds of standards are used? What is the impact of allowing institutions discretion to impose additional requirements? What special admission policies are in effect? What have been the trends in statewide policies? The second section discusses the type and range of standards set by institutions in those states that do not have statewide requirements. The final section contains profiles of admission standards for each of the 50 states.

STATEWIDE ADMISSION STANDARDS

Who Sets Admission Standards

Twenty-four states report having statewide minimum admission standards in effect for their public colleges and universities in 1984-85.¹ (See Table 1.) In 13 of these states,

1. For purposes of this study, statewide standards are defined as those policies imposed by a state agency on a group of public colleges and universities. State requirements generally apply to all institutions in a university or college system. If a state has more than one system, the policies are reported separately for each system.

Table 1. Use of Statewide Standards, 1984-85

State	Statewide Standards, No Institutional Discretion	Minimum Statewide Standards, Institutional Discretion	No Statewide Standards
Alabama			X
Alaska			X
Arizona		X	
Arkansas			X
California	X		
Colorado			X
Connecticut			X
Delaware			X
Florida		X	
Georgia		X	
Hawaii			X
Idaho	X		
Illinois			X
Indiana			X
Iowa	X		
Kansas	X		
Kentucky		X	
Louisiana	X		
Maine			X
Maryland		X	
Massachusetts		X	
Michigan			X
Minnesota			X
Mississippi		X	
Missouri			X
Montana	X		
Nebraska	X		
Nevada	X		
New Hampshire			X
New Jersey		X	
New Mexico			X
New York			X
North Carolina			X
North Dakota		X	
Ohio		X*	
Oklahoma	X		
Oregon	X		
Pennsylvania			X
Rhode Island			X
South Carolina			X
South Dakota	X		
Tennessee			X
Texas			X
Utah			X
Vermont			X
Virginia			X
Washington			X
West Virginia		X	
Wisconsin		X	
Wyoming	X		

*Institutions may not use examinations as a requirement for admission.

institutions of higher education are not allowed to exceed state requirements, while the other 11 states allow individual institutions the authority to impose more stringent admission standards. Three states—Illinois, North Carolina, and Tennessee—have the power to establish minimum statewide standards but in 1984-85 granted IHEs the authority to set admission requirements. In the remaining 23 states, authority to set admission standards rests with the governing boards of individual colleges and universities.

What Kinds of Statewide Standards Are Used?

In 1984-85, nine states require only that in-state students entering public colleges and universities have a high school diploma or its equivalent. (See Table 2.) Of these nine states, seven—Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming—do not allow individual institutions to impose additional requirements, making these state systems, in effect, open admission systems. Two states—Kentucky and Ohio—permit their institutions the opportunity to impose stricter standards.

Eight states require entering freshmen to present satisfactory scores on college admission tests. Test scores are

the only requirement for admission to Mississippi's public university system. Applicants to public schools in Florida must present a minimum high school GPA as well as satisfactory test scores, while students in Arizona, Georgia, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, and West Virginia can be admitted on the basis of their GPAs or another criterion, such as class rank or predicted performance, if their test scores are below the minimum required.

Seven states use only one criterion for admission. The single criterion used by these states are: minimum GPA (Nevada and Maryland), class rank (Iowa), high school course-work requirements (New Jersey and Wisconsin), and a sliding scale (Massachusetts and California).

In light of extensive discussion about the inadequate academic preparation of students entering college today, it is interesting to note that only five states—California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Wisconsin—required a prescribed pattern of high school course work as an entrance requirement for their public colleges and universities in 1984-85. Four more states—Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, and Montana—recommended a minimum curriculum for entering freshmen. Twelve states, however, are moving to either recommend or require the adoption of high school curriculum standards.

Table 2. Type of Statewide Admission Standard in Use, 1984-85

State	High School Diploma Only	High School Course Require.	Min. GPA		Class Rank	Test Scores	Predict. Perform.	Sliding Scale
Arizona			X	or	X	or	X	
California		X						X
Florida		X	X			X		
Georgia			X		or	X		
Idaho	X							
Iowa					X			
Kansas	X	X*						
Kentucky	X							
Louisiana	X							
Maryland			X					
Massachusetts		X						X
Mississippi						X		
Montana	X	X*						
Nebraska	X							
Nevada			X					
New Jersey		X						
North Dakota	X							
Ohio	X	X*						
Oklahoma			X	or	X	or	X	
Oregon			X		or	X	or	X
South Dakota					X	or	X	
West Virginia			X		or	X		
Wisconsin		X						
Wyoming	X							

*Recommended

What Is the Impact of Institutional Discretion?

As noted earlier, 11 states impose statewide minimum admissions standards but allow their public IHEs to impose more stringent requirements. Five states that incorporate test scores into statewide minimum standards allow institutional discretion: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and West Virginia. Admission requirements in Arizona's and West Virginia's IHEs do not exceed the state minimum. In Georgia, few of the IHEs impose higher standards, and those that do set higher minimum GPAs or use measures of predicted performance. All of Mississippi's colleges and many of Florida's schools have set higher qualifying test scores.

Maryland requires entering freshmen to meet a minimum GPA requirement. Some of the state's colleges and universities also use sliding scales as admission criteria. Massachusetts uses a sliding scale incorporating the GPA and test scores to screen applicants to its state universities and colleges. Typically, however, public IHEs in that state choose to accept only students falling in the upper half of the scale.

Two states, New Jersey and Wisconsin, have established high school course-work requirements as their only statewide admission standards. New Jersey's public colleges also use a "basic academic index" that combines class rank and SAT scores as an admission criterion. While the state does not require the use of this index, it does require that IHEs report the average index of their entering freshmen annually and that IHEs maintain or increase their student profile, as measured by this index, each year. In Wisconsin, IHEs are free to impose additional requirements. Most require minimum ACT or SAT scores and/or a minimum class rank, and many have more stringent course-work requirements.

Finally, in Kentucky, a state with a minimum requirement of a high school diploma, the University of Kentucky uses a sliding scale to screen prospective students, while the other state universities sampled in this study maintain an open admissions policy. Ohio law prohibits public IHEs from using test scores as an admission criterion, and until recently all institutions had an open admissions policy. At the recommendation of the Ohio Board of Regents and State Board of Education, however, 11 of the 12 public universities required, or plan to require, a minimum high school curriculum.

What Special Admission Policies Are in Effect?

Seven of the 24 states that set minimum admission standards have open admission policies in effect for all IHEs. Therefore, special admission policies pertain only to students who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

The other 17 states all have policies and procedures for reviewing credentials of students who do not meet statewide minimum standards and/or additional requirements set by

the individual institutions. Ten states limit the number of students that IHEs may admit under a special admissions program to a fixed percentage of the institution's freshmen class. One of these states, New Jersey, also requires state colleges to admit a minimum of 10 percent of the state residents in the freshmen class under another special program, its Educational Opportunity Fund Program. Massachusetts takes a different approach, exempting four categories of students from the state's eligibility index requirement. State colleges and universities must develop alternative admission policies for these students.

Several states that recently enacted high school course-work requirements have also developed exemption policies. For example, IHEs in Kentucky may exempt up to 20 percent of their applicants from the state's new course-work requirements, and individual institutions may substitute satisfactory ACT and SAT results in lieu of completion of these high school courses. Ohio universities have provisions that allow students the opportunity to correct high school course-work deficiencies, while Mississippi will exempt students with high composite ACT scores from its requirements. New Jersey state colleges may exempt students who are admitted under any of its special admission programs.

Table 3. Changes in Statewide Admission Standards, 1982-1985

State	None Anticipated	H.S. Crse. Req.	Min. GPA	Test Score
Arizona		X		
California		X		
Florida		X		X
Georgia	X			
Idaho		X*		
Illinois		X*		
Iowa	X			
Kansas	X			
Kentucky		X		
Louisiana	X			
Maryland	X			
Massachusetts		X		
Mississippi		X		
Montana	X			
Nebraska		X		
Nevada		X		
New Jersey		X		
N. Carolina		X		
N. Dakota	X			
Ohio		X		
Oklahoma		X		
Oregon		X	X	
S. Dakota		X*		
W. Virginia		X		
Wisconsin		X		
Wyoming		X		

*Proposed

What Are the Trends in Admission Policies?

Sixteen states have recently enacted, or are proposing, more stringent statewide admissions policies. (See Table 3.) Ten states reported no anticipated changes in their admission standards. Two of these states—Kansas and North Dakota—chose to retain their open admission policies after careful study.

In all of the states making changes, the new or proposed policies involve either imposing (14) or strengthening (2) a prescribed pattern of high school course-work for entering freshmen. Two of these states also recently raised the minimum test scores (Florida) and minimum grade point average (Oregon) required for admission, and two states—Arizona and Idaho—will require students to complete their prescribed high school courses with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

The new high school course-work requirements exceed those required for high school graduation. College freshmen will generally be expected to have taken an additional year of mathematics and science, one to two years of a foreign language, and electives drawn from a college preparatory curriculum. Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska and Oregon—have established exemption policies for students not meeting course-work requirements. These policies exempt students who have satisfactory college entrance test scores or meet other performance criteria.

The rationale for focusing on high school course-work requirements is reflected in the following description of the University of Utah's study of admission standards:

For the University of Utah, an intolerable condition had arisen with respect to student performance and resource utilization. University committees made several recommendations for dealing with the problem ranging from restricting access by GPA, by ACT score, or by means of enrollment limitations, to separating less-prepared students from the better-prepared ones by the creation of a two-year college on campus. The recommendations did not win approval because they tended to focus on the institution's problem rather than on the statewide problem of the state's educational system. The solution . . . was to define what the University considered to be a qualified or prepared student and to assure that such students would be admitted. The effects that properly prepared students would have upon the University as well as upon the high schools were well understood: a higher standard of classroom instruction, better use of University resources, better counseling programs in the high schools, and the enhancement of the educational level of the state's citizens. (Woolf, 1984)

Summary

In summary, nearly one-half of the states impose statewide minimum admission requirements on their public colleges and universities. Nine states have an open admissions policy, while 13 states require entering freshmen to meet a test score, minimum GPA, class rank and/or other performance standard. Nine states require or recommend a prescribed pattern of high school course work. Eleven states allow their

IHEs to impose additional admission requirements. A majority of IHEs in only one-half of these states, however, chose to raise performance standards.

Sixteen states have recently enacted, or are proposing, more stringent admission policies. In every case, these changes include high school course-work requirements. Only four states have increased performance standards.

ADMISSION STANDARDS IN STATES WITHOUT STATEWIDE REQUIREMENTS

Over half of the states do not have statewide admission policies. Standards for admission to public colleges and universities are set by the governing boards of individual IHEs. Information was collected on the admission requirements of a sample of IHEs in these states. Wherever possible, data were collected on the state's "flagship" institution and on other institutions representing a range of admission policies.

In most of these states, the flagship institution uses a combination of class rank or minimum GPA and college entrance test scores to screen applicants. Some IHEs establish absolute minimums, while others use a sliding scale or eligibility index. Most of these institutions also prescribe a pattern of course work for entering freshmen. State colleges or other state universities are more likely to require students to meet either a test score requirement or a class rank or a minimum GPA standard. In at least nine states, one or more of the state's four-year public colleges or universities has an open admissions policy. It was difficult to collect information on anticipated changes in admission policies since most of the data were drawn from individual college catalogs. The trend for those institutions reporting changes, however, has been to impose or strengthen high school course-work requirements (IHEs in 10 states) rather than raise performance standards (IHEs in four states).

FIFTY STATE PROFILES

The final section of this report contains profiles of state and institutional admission policies for each of the 50 states. Six categories of information are presented:

- number and type of public IHEs
- institutions responsible for setting admission standards
- current admission standards
- special admission policies
- anticipated changes in policies
- sources of published information on these standards and policies

Some states and many individual institutions use composite SAT and/or ACT scores to screen students for admission. A composite SAT score is obtained by summing a student's quantitative and verbal scores. The composite ACT score is the average of a student's scores on four tests—

English usage, mathematics usage, social studies reading, and natural sciences reading—and is reported by the ACT.

The data reported here are limited in several ways. First, the policies apply only to *in-state* students, who are usually defined as graduates of that state's high schools, and to students applying to the institutions for the first time. Second, the focus is on general admission requirements. Individual departments and programs in the colleges and

universities may have more stringent admission standards. Third, as noted elsewhere in this report, requirements reported for individual institutions are based on a sample of IHEs in each state, and are meant only to represent a range of admission standards. Finally, these profiles describe written policies. The actual admission practices of individual institutions may differ from the reported policies.

ALABAMA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 14 universities
- 1 senior college
- 15 junior colleges
- 6 community colleges
- 22 technical colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

There are no statewide admission policies. Standards for admission to four-year colleges and universities are set by the governing boards of the individual institutions. Junior colleges operate under an open admission policy. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is a coordinating agency that collects and publishes information on public IHEs and is responsible for developing long range plans for postsecondary education in Alabama.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Of the 14 colleges and universities that admit freshmen, 3 have open admission policies: Alabama State University, Jacksonville State University, and the University of North Alabama. Nine use various combinations of composite test scores (ACT and/or SAT) and high school grade point average. The minimum requirements for unconditional acceptance are listed below:

- a. Auburn University: GPA of 2.0 and an 18 ACT or 870 SAT.
- b. Auburn University at Montgomery: 2.0 GPA and a 16 ACT.
- c. Livingston University: 2.0 GPA and 14 ACT.
- d. Troy State University (both branches): Formula including ACT/SAT scores and high school GPA.
- e. University of Alabama: 2.0 GPA and 21 ACT, but students with lower ACT scores can qualify with higher GPAs on the following sliding scale: 2.4 GPA/18 ACT; 2.7 GPA/16 ACT. A student with less than a 2.0 GPA or less than a 16 ACT who is still on the sliding scale will be admitted conditionally.
- f. University of Alabama at Birmingham: 2.0 GPA and 18 ACT, including a 2.0 GPA in high school English and mathematics.

- g. University of Alabama at Huntsville: A sliding scale with the following points: 3.25 GPA/14 ACT; 2.75 GPA/16 ACT; 2.0 GPA/22 ACT and 1.75 GPA/24 ACT.

- h. University of Monticello: Equivalent of a 2.0 GPA and a 16 ACT when applied to a sliding scale.

The remaining two institutions use either a minimum GPA requirement (2.0 GPA at Alabama A&M) or a minimum test-score requirement (16 ACT or 800 SAT at University of Southern Alabama). At Alabama A&M, high ACT scores can offset a lower GPA.

4. Special Admission Policies

All colleges and universities with minimum entrance requirements accept some students on a conditional basis. Criteria for conditional admission and the percentage of students admitted provisionally vary widely by IHE.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual profiles of the four-year colleges and universities are published by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

ALASKA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 3 university centers (University of Alaska)
- 11 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Alaska at Anchorage: Admission is based on a combination of student's grade point average, class rank and ACT or SAT scores. Entering freshmen must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- b. University of Alaska at Fairbanks: A high school

graduate must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to qualify for admission.

- c. University of Alaska at Juneau: Open admissions, with the exception of the biology and fisheries programs.
- d. Community colleges: Open admission.

4. Special Admission Policies

At the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, a student whose GPA falls below the minimum required may be considered for probationary admission if his or her ACT or SAT scores demonstrate the capacity for successful academic work.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

ARIZONA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

3 universities
15 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Arizona Board of Regents establishes minimum admission standards for the Arizona university system. The universities may adopt additional requirements with approval of the board. Admission standards for the community colleges are set by the State Board of Directors for Community Colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. Universities: Applicants for admission to the state's universities must rank in the upper 50 percent of their high school class, or have a minimum GPA of 2.5, or must obtain a composite score of at least 21 ACT or 930 SAT. None of the universities impose additional admission requirements.
- b. Community colleges: Open admissions policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Each university may adopt alternative admission requirements for applicants who are age 22 or older and may establish a special university admission committee to admit no more than 10 percent of the students entering each year who do not meet the statewide admission requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

Starting in fall 1987, entering freshmen must have completed the following pattern of high school course work with a minimum GPA of 2.0: four years of English, three years of

mathematics, two years of a laboratory science, and two years of social science.

6. Published Information

Arizona Board of Regents. "Arizona University System Admission Policies." July 1984.

Individual college catalogs.

ARKANSAS

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

1 medical center (four-year and advanced degrees)
9 universities
3 two-year branch colleges
7 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission policies are established by the governing boards of the individual institutions. The Department of Higher Education may recommend admission standards for Arkansas colleges and universities.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Universities: Most Arkansas public universities have a modified open admission policy; that is, all graduates of Arkansas high schools will be admitted, but those failing to meet certain requirements will be admitted on a conditional basis or placed in a special program. Most require the completion of a specified pattern of high school course work as well. Some examples of admission policies are given below.

- a. University of Arkansas at Little Rock: Entering freshmen with less than a 2.0 GPA from high school will be denied admission to the University but will be given the option of applying for probationary status.
- b. University of Arkansas at Fayetteville: Any graduate of an accredited high school may be admitted, but students with less than a 2.0 GPA who do not have a composite ACT score of 18 or better will be expected to participate in a special program.
- c. Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia: Prospective freshmen who graduated in the lower half of their high school class and have achievement test scores showing lack of preparation in basic skills will be required to participate in the General Studies Program.
- d. University of Central Arkansas: Open admission policy.

It is recommended that students entering any of the public four-year institutions complete three years of high school English, one year each of mathematics, science, and social science, and an additional year of either mathematics or science.

Two-year institutions: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

See current admission standards above.

5. Anticipated Changes

In September 1983, the Task Force on Admissions and Academic Standards of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education recommended uniform course-work requirements for students moving directly from high school to state colleges and universities as full-time students. The standards, which would be phased in between 1985 and 1990, would require the completion of four years of English, two years of biology, chemistry or physics, two years of mathematics (including algebra I and geometry), three years of social studies, two years of one foreign language, and one-half year of computer science. Public four-year IHEs should also consider joint utilization of a single, nationally standardized entrance examination for improved student placement.

The Task Force also recommended that an open admission policy be maintained for two-year colleges, but college students in academic transfer programs should meet the same levels of high school preparation.

6. Published Information

Arkansas Department of Higher Education, "Recommendations: Task Force on Admissions and Academic Standards" (mimeo), September 7, 1983.

Selected college catalogs.

CALIFORNIA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

9 campuses of the University of California
19 campuses of California State University
106 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education in California vests authority for establishing and modifying admission standards of the University of California and the California State University (CSU) with the governing board of each system. The Master Plan recommends the establishment of "eligibility pools" for the University and State University of the top one-eighth and top one-third respectively of California high school graduates. These targets are used by the two systems to guide their admission policies.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of California: Students may be admitted to the University of California if they meet one of three criteria: (1) complete a prescribed pattern of high school course work with a minimum GPA of 3.3 or higher; (2) have a GPA between 2.78 and

3.29, and qualify on the University's SAT/GPA Eligibility Index; or (3) score a total of 1,100 or higher on the SAT plus 1,650 on three College Board Achievement Tests with a minimum score of 500 on each of the three. The Eligibility Index requires a student with a GPA of 2.78 to score a total of 1,600 on the SAT. The required SAT score decreases as the GPA rises, so that a student with a GPA of 3.29 must have a total score of only 410.

- b. California State University: Students may be admitted to the California State University if they meet one of two criteria: (1) have a cumulative GPA of greater than 3.2; or (2) have a GPA between 2.0 and 3.2 and qualify on CSU's SAT/GPA Eligibility Index. The Eligibility Index uses the following formulas and cutoff scores:

$$800 \times \text{GPA} + \text{Combined SAT} \geq 3,072$$

$$200 \times \text{GPA} + (10 \times \text{ACT Composite}) \geq 741$$

Entering freshmen must also have completed four years of high school English and two years of mathematics.

- c. Community colleges: Open admission.

4. Special Admission Policies

Students can be admitted to the California State University with three years of English and one year of mathematics on appeal if they meet the other admission criteria.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1986, students entering the University of California must take an additional year of high school mathematics and four advanced college preparatory courses. The California State University is considering the adoption of a required college-preparatory course pattern that exceeds that currently in place. The CSU system will lower the qualifying score on its eligibility index (from 3,072 to 2,994 on the SAT index, for example) in order to increase its eligibility pool to 33 percent of the state's high school graduates.

6. Published Information

Preparing for 1986: A Comparison of Current and New Admission Requirements for Freshmen at the University of California.

California Postsecondary Education Commission. "Eligibility of California's 1983 High School Graduates for Admission to the State's Public Universities: A Report from the 1983 High School Eligibility Study." CPEC: Policy Development Committee, January 21, 1985.

COLORADO

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 8 universities
- 5 state colleges
- 15 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by individual governing boards. The legislature has placed enrollment caps on the University of Colorado at Boulder and Colorado State University.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Colorado: Varies by college. For the College of Arts and Sciences, all three campuses require a specified course-work pattern, a minimum composite SAT score of 1,000 or ACT of 23 and class rank in the upper 40th percentile (Boulder and Colorado Springs) or upper half (Denver). Admission requirements at the Health Sciences Center vary by program and include program-specific examinations.
- b. University of Northern Colorado: Requires specified high school course work, rank in upper one-half of class and composite scores of 850 on SAT or 19 on ACT.
- c. Adams State College: Requires minimum GPA of 2.0 and ranking in upper two-thirds of class.
- d. Colorado School of Mines: Requires specified pattern of course work and ranking in upper one-third of class.
- e. Colorado State University and Fort Lewis College: These campuses have course-work requirements. They also consider GPA, class rank, test scores, and trend in quality of high school performance.
- f. Mesa College, Metropolitan State College, University of Southern Colorado: Open admission policies.
- g. Western State College: Requires minimum GPA of 2.0.

4. Special Admission Policies

Many of the IHEs state that applicants not meeting minimum admission standards may be considered on an individual basis.

5. Anticipated Changes

The University of Colorado at Boulder and Colorado State University are proposing stiffer admission standards in class rank, minimum test scores, and GPA.

6. Published Information

Handbook 1984-85. A Publication of the Colorado Council on High School-College Relations. Durango, California, n.d.

CONNECTICUT

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 2 universities
- 12 regional community colleges
- 5 state technical colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission policies are established by individual institutions or by the Board of Trustees of the Regional Community Colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Connecticut: The University of Connecticut requires a high school diploma and a specified pattern of high school course work. A more stringent pattern of course work is recommended. Further decisions are made based on SAT scores and high school rank, combined in a manner that predicts success at the University. Individual schools and colleges within the University may set more stringent requirements and recommendations.

The class entering in fall 1985 must have completed four years of high school English, three years of mathematics, and two years each of laboratory science, social science and a foreign language. It is recommended that students also have completed an additional one to two years each of science, social science, and foreign language, as well as course work in computer skills and the fine and performing arts.

- b. Connecticut State University: Entering freshmen must have completed four years of high school English and two years each of mathematics, science, social science, and a foreign language. A third year of mathematics will be required beginning in fall 1986. It is recommended that students complete an additional two years of mathematics, an additional one to two years of science, social science and foreign language, and course work in computer sciences and fine arts.
- c. Regional community colleges: The regional community colleges operate under an open admission policy. Some programs in individual colleges require a specific pattern of high school course work and usually a minimum grade of 75.
- d. State technical colleges: All five of the state technical colleges require a specified minimum pattern of course work of four years of English, two to three of mathematics, one year of science, and zero to one year of social science. Three colleges recommend a minimum combined SAT score of 900, and four colleges recommend minimum GPAs of 75 to 85 and/or a high school rank of the top 50 percent or the top 67 percent.

4. Special Admission Policies

- a. University of Connecticut: Exceptions to the universitywide course requirements may be made for older students, educationally disadvantaged students, applicants with highly specialized talents appropriate to a particular program, or applicants with an exceptionally high combination of high school rank and SAT scores.
- b. Connecticut State University: There are no guidelines for special admission, but admission decisions are based upon the merit of individual cases.
- c. State technical colleges: All five colleges have guidelines for special admission that provide inadequately prepared high school students, who have demonstrated academic potential, an opportunity to participate in pretechnical preparatory course work.

5. Anticipated Changes

Changes are anticipated beyond those in required course work noted for the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State University.

6. Published Information

Connecticut Department of Higher Education. *Freshmen Admission Policies and Practices in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education*. Hartford, CT: Department of Higher Education, July 1984.

DELAWARE

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university
- 1 college
- 1 technical and community college

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Delaware: In selecting students, the university considers depth and rigor of high school course work, grades earned in academic courses, class rank and test scores.
- b. Delaware State College: Admission is granted on the basis of grades, class rank, test scores, and other evidence of the ability of the applicant to complete college-level work. Students normally should have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and have completed four years of English, two years each of mathematics, science and history and/or social studies, and five units of academic electives. Minimum test score requirements vary with the strength of other admission criteria.

4. Special Admission Policies

None cited.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

FLORIDA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 9 state universities
- 28 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Minimum admission standards to public universities and community colleges are established by state laws and administrative regulations. Universities may impose additional restrictions on admission if necessary to accommodate enrollment limitations.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Public universities: Students who have a 3.0 GPA or better in appropriate high school courses are academically eligible for admission to any of the state universities. Students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.99 must present scores at or above the 40th percentile of college-bound seniors on a nationally normed college admission exam (composite score of 840 SAT or 17 ACT) to be academically eligible. Effective fall 1984, all entering freshmen must have completed three years of English, two years each of mathematics, natural science and social science, and three units of electives in these four areas or in a foreign language. Freshmen entering in fall 1986 must have completed one additional year each of English, mathematics and natural science and an additional unit of electives. Effective August 1, 1987, no student may be enrolled who has not earned two credits or the equivalent in foreign language.

Students may not be admitted to upper-division instructional programs in the state university system unless they demonstrate satisfactory scores on the College Level Academic Skills Test.

Some IHEs set higher admission standards. For example:

- a. Florida State University: Requires composite test scores of 21 ACT or 950 SAT. An academic GPA higher than 2.5 may compensate for slightly lower test scores, while higher test scores may balance a GPA slightly lower than the required 2.5.
- b. Central Florida University: Requires a minimum GPA of 2.6 and test scores of 21 ACT or 900 SAT. Students with a 3.0 GPA in a college prep curriculum

will normally be admitted even if they have lower test scores.

- c. Florida International University: Requires an overall GPA of 3.0 and composite test scores of 23 ACT or 1,000 SAT.
- d. University of Florida and Florida A&M University: Statewide admission standards.

Community colleges: Admission standards cannot include education requirements greater than a high school diploma or its equivalent.

4. Special Admission Policies

A 10 percent Exception Admissions Policy applies to limited-access programs where necessary to achieve established equal access enrollment goals. Students who do not meet state minimum standards and/or institutional standards may be admitted if it is determined that these students can be expected to do successful academic work at the institution to which they are applying.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Florida Statutes 1983, Ch. 240.321 and 240.233.

Florida Administrative Code, Ch. 6A-14.50. Supp. No. DCC-82.4.

Rules of the Florida Department of Education. Board of Regents Ch. 6C-6.01, Admissions.

Catalogs from selected public universities.

GEORGIA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 universities
- 14 senior colleges
- 15 junior colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia establishes minimum academic standards that must be met at all 33 institutions. Institutions have discretionary power to impose higher standards.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

To be admitted to any system institution, students must have a minimum GPA on academic work of 1.8, or a 250 verbal SAT score, or a 280 quantitative SAT score. Entering freshmen scoring below 330 on the verbal SAT or below 330 on the quantitative SAT will be given the Regents Basic Skills examination to determine whether Development Studies shall be required prior to entry into regular college-credit courses. Institutions may specify higher levels of performance requirements and/or additional testing.

Few of the IHEs impose higher admission standards:

- a. The University of Georgia: Requires students to meet a predicted college-level GPA as computed by admissions officials.
- b. Georgia State University: Requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a 2.0 or better in English and mathematics courses.

Students attending state IHEs must successfully complete the Regents Examination before being admitted to upper-division instructional programs.

4. Special Admission Policies

Students not meeting minimum statewide requirements may apply for provisional admission. Students in provisional status may gain regular admission by meeting regular requirements or by completing 30 hours of degree-credit work with an average GPA of 2.0 or higher.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Board of Regents, University System of Georgia. *The Policy Manual*, Section 402.02-402.03.

Georgia Educational Improvement Council. *Directory: A Guide to Colleges, Vocational-Technical and Diploma Schools of Nursing, 1981-82*. Atlanta: Georgia Educational Improvement Council, January 1982.

HAWAII

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 3 senior colleges and universities
- 6 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards for all public institutions are established by the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, but vary by institution.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Hawaii at Manoa: Admission criteria include: (1) a minimum GPA of 2.0 average for academic courses and a 2.8 average for all courses; (2) at least a 430 on both the verbal and mathematical sections of the SAT; (3) completion of 15 high school unit requirements, of which 10 are college preparatory; and (4) ranking in the top two-fifths of the senior class. More weight is given to the first two criteria than to the last two. Students whose SAT scores are as much as one standard deviation (about 40 points) below the minimum may be admitted if their GPAs are considerably above 2.8.

Conversely, students with high SAT scores may be admitted even though their minimum GPA is below 2.8.

- b. University of Hawaii at Hilo: Admission criteria include a minimum 2.0 GPA in college preparatory courses, minimum SAT verbal and mathematics scores of 400 and completion of 15 high school units, of which at least 10 are college preparatory. However, lower scores are accepted when an applicant has a higher GPA.
- c. Community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

The University of Hawaii does not have special admission policies.

5. Anticipated Changes

Admission standards at the University of Hawaii at Manoa are under review by the institution's faculty.

6. Published Information

Admission policy statements as found in college catalogs.

IDAHO

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 state colleges and universities
- 3 junior and vocational colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Not applicable.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1986, students applying for regular admission to the state colleges and universities must submit SAT or ACT scores. Effective fall 1989, students must complete the following high school curriculum with a 2.0 GPA: four years of English, two years each of mathematics, science and fine arts/foreign language, two and one-half years of social science and one year of speech. An additional year each of mathematics and science and courses in a foreign language are strongly recommended. Provisional admission will be granted to students who do not meet these requirements but

have a predicted 2.00 college GPA calculated using an ACT/SAT prediction formula or who deserve special consideration by institutional definition and criteria (disadvantaged and minority students, delayed entries, and so forth).

6. Published Information

Idaho State Board of Education. "Minimum Statewide Standards for Admission and Retention in Higher Education." January 30, 1985.

ILLINOIS

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 12 universities
- 50 (approximately) community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Higher Education has statutory authority to "establish minimum admission standards" for public community colleges and universities. Historically, the Board has delegated responsibility for setting admission standards to the public university governing boards. The Board of Higher Education does recommend admission policies to IHEs, and reviews and approves their admission requirements.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Students must present a combination of class rank and SAT or ACT test-score results which indicate at least a fifty-fifty chance of obtaining a C average the first semester on campus.
- b. Northeastern Illinois University: Students must rank in the upper one-half of their high school graduating class.
- c. Northern Illinois University: Students must rank in the upper half of their high school graduating class and have a composite ACT score of 17 or rank between the upper two-thirds and one-half of their class and have an ACT score of 22.
- d. Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville: Students must rank in the upper half of their high school graduating class or score in the upper 50th percentile on a college entrance examination.
- e. Southern Illinois University at Carbondale: Students must score above the 50th percentile on a college entrance examination or score above the 33rd percentile and be in the upper half of their high school graduating class.
- f. Illinois State University: In most programs, admission will be granted to students who meet one of the following criteria: (1) score at least two points above the average ACT or SAT score of college-bound students in the State of Illinois; (2) rank in the highest quarter of their high school class; (3) rank in the

50th to 74th percentile of their high school class and have a minimum score on the ACT or SAT that is equivalent to a score that will provide a fifty-fifty chance of achieving a 2.00 GPA at Illinois State; or (4) rank in the 25th to 49th percentile of their high school class and have an ACT or SAT score that is equivalent to an upper-half ranking of college-bound high school graduating students in the State of Illinois.

Of the ten public universities that admit freshmen, 8 had no required pattern of high school course work in fall 1983. The University of Illinois at Chicago required three years of English of all students and the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign required three years of English and one year each of algebra and geometry. At both campuses, some colleges and programs had specific minimum requirements which exceeded those for all students, and additional course work was recommended for all students. Illinois State University required that students scoring below specified test scores must have completed three years of English and one year of algebra.

4. Special Admission Policies

Special admission policies vary by institution. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign admits students through programs such as the Educational Opportunities Program or the Early Admissions Program.

5. Anticipated Changes

In November 1983, the Illinois Board of Higher Education recommended that each of the public universities include a specified pattern of course work in its admission requirements. By spring 1984, all 10 four-year IHEs had proposed more stringent course-work requirements to be phased in between spring 1985 and fall 1988. In most cases, these requirements will not exceed the newly legislated high school graduation requirements. Two IHEs would require an additional year of English and seven would require an additional year of science. Two universities reported changes that involve the use of ACT or SAT scores and class rank (Chicago State University and Illinois State University).

The Board of Higher Education is currently reviewing a recommendation that all public universities consider adopting the following high school subjects as minimum admission requirements: four years of English, three years each of social studies, mathematics and laboratory science, and two years of electives in foreign language, music or art.

6. Published Information

Illinois Board of Higher Education. *High School Subjects required for Admission to Public and Private Colleges and Universities*. September 5, 1984.

Individual college catalogs.

INDIANA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 four-year colleges and universities
- 2 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. Indiana University: Students who have demonstrated above-average achievement in a strong college-preparatory curriculum, who rank in the upper half of their high school class and who have a composite score of 850 SAT or 19 ACT will generally be admitted. Students are also expected to have completed a minimum of 13 units of college preparatory courses, including four years of English, and a minimum of nine units of study in some combination of mathematics, social science, laboratory science, and/or foreign language.
- b. Purdue University: Admission criteria include a combination of class rank, GPA, grade average in subjects related to the student's college program, trends in achievement throughout high school, strength of the college preparatory program and test scores. High school course work and "academic quality" requirements vary by college program. Applicants for the freshman engineering program must have minimum SAT scores of 400 verbal and 500 math or ACT scores of 19 English and 25 math.

4. Special Admission Policies

None cited.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

IOWA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 3 universities
- 15 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Iowa State Board of Regents sets admission policies for all state community colleges and the three Regent universities.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. Regent universities: Unconditional admission is granted to graduates of approved Iowa high schools who have the subject matter background recommended by each university and who rank in the upper half of their graduating class.
- b. Community colleges: The standard minimum requirement is a high school diploma, or its equivalent. Colleges have the right to set higher admission requirements.

4. Special Admission Policies

Regent universities: Institutions have the discretion to admit applicants who are not in the upper half of their graduating class on a conditional or unconditional basis after a review of their academic and test records.

5. Anticipated Changes

No changes in the admission policy are anticipated at the three Regent institutions.

6. Published Information

Iowa Administrative Code. Section 670-4: Public Instruction, Chapter 4 and Section 720-1 and 720-2: Regents.

KANSAS

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

6 state universities
19 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

State law prescribes an open admission policy for all state educational institutions. The Kansas Board of Regents, which governs the state universities, makes recommendations in addition to the entitlement statute. The community colleges report to the Postsecondary Education Commission.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Open admission policy. The Board of Regents recommends the following pattern of high school coursework for entering freshmen: four years of English, three years each of mathematics, natural science and social studies, and two years of a foreign language.

4. Special Admission Policies

None required.

5. Anticipated Changes

After a study of admission standards in 1982, the Board of Regents affirmed the open admissions policy at its institutions.

6. Published Information

Kansas Statutes: 72-116 Entitlement to Admission to State Educational Institutions.

KENTUCKY

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

8 public universities
13 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Council on Higher Education has statutory authority to set minimum admission standards. Legislation passed in 1982 enables IHEs to establish admission standards that exceed or are in addition to the statewide minimum qualifications.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for admission to all public colleges. Individual institutions may set admission standards that exceed statewide minimum standards.

- a. University of Kentucky: Freshman admission is based upon probable success as predicted from high school grades and ACT results. Students with the following combination of GPA and minimum composite test scores receive automatic acceptance: GPA of 2.00–2.49 and ACT of 28; GPA of 2.50–2.99 and ACT of 21; GPA of 3.00–3.49 and ACT of 15; or GPA of 3.50–4.00 and ACT of 11 or above. Delayed consideration will be granted to those students with a GPA of 2.00–3.49 and an ACT of 11 or above. An applicant with a GPA of less than 2.0 or with an ACT of 10 or less will be denied admission.
- b. Northern Kentucky University: Open admission policy.
- c. Eastern Kentucky University: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

IHEs are authorized to grant exceptions to the newly established minimum course-work requirements to as many as 20 percent of first-time freshman applicants admitted each term.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1987, applicants to the public universities must have completed 20 or more approved high school units, including a minimum of four years of English, three years of mathematics and two years each of science and social studies. College-bound students are encouraged to take addi-

tional course work in mathematics, science, foreign languages, arts and computer literacy. IHEs may substitute satisfactory ACT or SAT results in lieu of completion of these high school courses.

IHEs are reviewing their admission policies in light of the changes mandated by the Council on Higher Education and are expected to implement new institutional requirements by fall 1987.

6. Published Information

Kentucky Council on Higher Education. *Guidelines for Undergraduate Admission to the State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education in Kentucky*. Revised, January 13, 1983.

Individual college catalogs.

LOUISIANA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 13 four-year colleges and universities
- 4 two-year colleges
- 2 special-purpose institutions (medicine/law)

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by three governing boards: The Louisiana State University supervisors, the Southern University System supervisors and the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Resident graduates of approved Louisiana high schools are guaranteed admission to any Louisiana public college or university.

4. Special Admission Policies

None required.

5. Anticipated Changes

The Baton Rouge campus of Louisiana State University plans to require a prescribed pattern of high school course work effective with the fall semester of 1988.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

MAINE

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

7 campuses (University of Maine)

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Each branch of the University sets its own admission standards.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

All campuses consider SAT test scores, high school preparation and GPA when admitting students. None specify minimum GPAs or test scores. Required high school courses vary by campus, but generally include four years of English, two to three years of mathematics, one to two years of science, one to two years of history/social science and zero to two years of a foreign language.

4. Special Admission Policies

None cited.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

MARYLAND

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 13 four-year colleges and universities
- 19 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Minimum admission requirements are established by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Universities and Colleges. The Board, however, encourages individual institutions to adopt standards above the minimum level using predictive measures of probable academic success.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

The state requires that all entering freshmen who have graduated from high school within five years of admission have a minimum high school GPA of 2.0. Several institutions have adopted additional admission criteria.

- a. **University of Maryland: "Preferred Admission":** Students are guaranteed admission if they meet one of three criteria: (1) have a 3.0 GPA and a minimum combined SAT score of 1,000; (2) have a GPA between 3.0 and 4.0 and a SAT score between 980 and 800 (on a sliding scale where the SAT requirement drops by 50 points for every 0.10 increase in GPA); or (3) meet the requirements for regular admission

and meet certain advanced-placement course requirements.

"Regular Admission": Maryland residents are eligible for admission, on a space-available basis, if they qualify on a sliding scale that combines GPA and combined SAT scores. The scale ranges from 2.0 GPA/1,030 SAT to 2.75 + GPA/650 SAT, with a reduction in the SAT requirement of 50 points for every 0.10 increase in GPA. Under both admission policies, students must also meet prescribed course-work requirements.

- b. **Frostburg State College:** The primary factors used for admission decisions are the high school GPA and composite SAT scores. Scores that would normally predict success in a collegiate program are used. The following sliding scale is published as a guide for students: 3.75–4.00 GPA, minimum composite SAT of 550; 3.50–3.75 GPA, 600 SAT; 3.25–3.49 GPA, 650 SAT; 2.00–2.24 GPA, 900 SAT. Entering freshmen must also have completed four years of English, three years of social science, and two years each of science and mathematics.
- c. **Bowie State College:** Admission decisions are based on grades, class rank, test scores, and high school course work. The only prescribed requirements are those for high school course work: four years of English, three years of social science, two years each of science and mathematics and nine units of electives.

4. Special Admission Policies

Each institution may admit, up to 15 percent of its entering freshman class, students whose GPA is less than 2.0 but who show potential for success in college. All entering freshmen will be administered diagnostic-placement tests in reading, writing and mathematics, and those scoring below a predetermined standard will be required to participate in remedial programs to eliminate deficiencies in basic skills. The University of Maryland admits a small percentage of students who do not meet admissions requirements through a special Individual Admissions Program.

5. Anticipated Changes

Bowie State College is phasing in more stringent high school course-work requirements.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

MASSACHUSETTS

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 state universities
- 9 state colleges
- 15 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education establishes minimum admission standards for all 28 public institutions. State colleges and universities have the discretion to develop more stringent standards with the approval of the Board of Regents.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Academic course-work requirements are being phased in. Starting in fall 1984, 10 units are recommended, including three years of English, two years of mathematics, one each of social science and foreign language, and three electives from specified academic groups. By fall 1987, entering freshmen will be required to complete 16 units, including four years of English, three years of mathematics, two years each of science, social science and foreign languages, and three units of electives from specified academic groups.

Students must also qualify under an eligibility index, which combines composite SAT score and class rank on a sliding scale. For state universities, the scale ranges from 1,300 SAT alone, to 1,250 SAT/upper 90th percentile class rank, to 500 SAT/upper 15th percentile class rank, with the SAT score decreasing 50 points for each increase of 5 percentiles in class rank. The sliding scale for state colleges ranges from 1,100 SAT/upper 90th percentile class rank to 500 SAT/upper 25th percentile class rank.

Institutions may impose additional requirements after meeting the state guidelines. To illustrate the range in institutional standards, policies are presented for a state university and a "general" state college.

- a. **State university:** Minimum admission standards include a GPA of 2.5 or better, a minimum verbal SAT of 400 and quantitative SAT of 400, satisfactory completion of 16 specified units of academic course work, and a SAT/high school rank eligibility index ranging from 1,300 SAT alone, 1,250 SAT/upper 90th percentile class rank to 800 SAT/upper 45th percentile class rank. Students with less than a composite score of 800 must be in the top 10–25th percentile of their class to be considered for admission.
- b. **"General" state college:** Minimum admission standards include a combined SAT score of 850 with a score of 400 or better on each part of the SAT, weighted high school class rank in the upper 50th percentile, a predictive index of 2.0 that includes verbal and quantitative SAT scores and standardized class rank and completion of 16 specified units of academic course work.

- c. Community colleges: Open admission policies. Any student with an associate degree from a public community college is guaranteed admission to a state college or university.

4. Special Admission Policies

The Board of Regents exempts four categories of students from the admission eligibility index admissions requirement: GED students, evening school graduates and students who graduated from high school more than three years before applying to college; students whose special needs have been assessed under the state's handicapped education law; educationally disadvantaged students (due to low income, limited English proficiency, or race); and students transferring from community colleges with public associate degrees.

State colleges and universities must develop alternative evaluation policies for these students subject to approval by the Board of Regents.

5. Anticipated Changes

The Board of Regents is studying the possibility of substituting weighted GPA for class rank.

6. Published Information

Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education, *Minimum Admission Standards for Public Baccalaureate Colleges and Universities*. January 10, 1984.

MICHIGAN

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 15 four-year colleges and universities
- 29 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing board of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Michigan: Qualified applicants generally have a minimum GPA of 2.0 in an appropriate college preparatory curriculum and have standardized test scores comparable to freshmen pursuing similar programs in the University. (In 1983-84, 43 percent of entering freshmen had a SAT-verbal score of 550 or above and 71 percent had a SAT-math score of 550 or above. The mean SAT scores were 532 and 597 respectively, and the average ACT composite score was 26.) It is recommended that students complete the following high school course work: four years of English, three to four years of mathematics and science, two to three years of social studies, two years of a foreign language and a total of 20 units.

- b. Wayne State University: Admission is assured if students have a minimum GPA of 2.75 and admission is granted if their GPA is between 2.00 and 2.74, and they score at least 450 verbal and 400 math on the SAT or a composite of 20 on the ACT. A specified pattern of high school course work is also strongly recommended.

- c. Eastern Michigan University: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

The University of Michigan does not have a probationary admission policy. Wayne State and Eastern Michigan Universities offer special admission programs for students not meeting institutional requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

MINNESOTA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 5 campuses of the University of Minnesota
- 7 state universities
- 18 community colleges
- 33 vocational-technical colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

There are no statewide requirements for admission to public IHEs. The 1983 legislature mandated that the governing boards of individual institutions develop proposals for admission requirements to be reviewed by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-State Students

- a. University of Minnesota: Minimum requirements vary across the 11 undergraduate colleges at five campuses. Two campuses have open admission policies. Another campus requires students to be in the upper half of their high school class or have college admission test scores at or above the 50th percentile. The Morris campus and three colleges at the Twin Cities campus use formulas based on high school rank percentile (HSR) and ACT, SAT, or PSAT scores.
For example, the College of Liberal Arts at the Twin Cities campus will admit students if $HSR + ACT \geq 100$, or $HSR + PSAT \geq 140$, or $HSR + (SAT + 10) > 140$. Students are usually rejected if $HSR + 2 (ACT) \leq 80$, or $HSR + PSAT \leq 125$, or $HSR + (SAT + 10) < 125$.

At the Morris campus, the minimum requirements are HSR + (2) ACT $\geq$ 85, or HSR + PSAT $\geq$ 125. Several of the programs have prescribed high school course-work requirements as well.

- b. State University system: The state University system does not have a systemwide admissions policy. Six of the institutions require students to be in the top two-thirds or one-half of their high school class or have minimum ACT, SAT or PSAT scores ranging from 16 to 20+ (ACT), 700+ to 900+ (SAT) and 70+ to 90+ (PSAT). None of the campuses set course-work requirements.
- c. Community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Some of the colleges of the University of Minnesota will consider applications from individuals not meeting minimum HSR/test-score requirements. Each of the State University institutions has a procedure for admitting students under special conditions if they do not meet regular admissions standards.

5. Anticipated Changes

After a review of existing admissions requirements, none of the three governing boards proposed more rigorous course-work requirements or new guidelines for admission based on aptitude test results. The State University system proposed the development of formulas for calculating class rank which take into account the number of academic units completed.

6. Published Information

Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Review and Comments on Proposals for Admissions Requirements for Incoming Freshmen*. February 16, 1984.

MISSISSIPPI

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

8 public universities
15 junior colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning establishes admission standards for the eight public universities. The Mississippi Junior College Commission sets standards for the junior colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Since 1977, freshmen entering the eight public universities must have a minimum composite score of 9 on the ACT. Institutions may set higher qualifying scores with the approval of the Board of Trustees, and all eight do. Five uni-

versities require a composite score of 15, one a score of 13, one a score of 11 and one a score of 10. Students must have a minimum ACT score of 18 for admission to a baccalaureate nursing program. Students who score below 12 on the English portion of the ACT and/or 12 on the mathematics portion of the ACT must enter and satisfactorily complete a Board-of-Trustees-approved developmental program.

4. Special Admission Policies

The eight universities may enroll a number equivalent to 5 percent (10 percent at one institution) of the previous year's freshman class to accommodate talented and/or high-risk students with ACT scores between 9 and the institution's minimum qualifying score. Other special policies apply to students over 21 and to handicapped students.

5. Anticipated Changes

Beginning with the fall term of 1986, all freshmen entering the public universities must have completed four years of English, three years each of mathematics and science, two and one-half years of social science and one year of a foreign language, additional mathematics, or additional science. It is also recommended that students take two years of a foreign language, a mathematics course during their senior year, and a computer science course. Students with high composite ACT scores (24 in five IHEs and 20 in three IHEs) are exempt from this requirement.

The minimum qualifying ACT score at one university will be raised from 11 to 13 by 1988.

Community colleges have an open admission policy. The Mississippi Junior College Commission is expected to adopt new standards in November 1984; completion of a minimum of 15 units from an approved high school, and a GED or demonstrated competency in accordance with published admission requirements.

6. Published Information

State of Mississippi, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, *Bylaws and Policies*. Section on Admissions.

_____, *Board of Trustees Actions Regarding Admission Standards*. *Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*. Section 37-29-11 through 37-29-17. Junior College Commission.

MISSOURI

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 state university (4 campuses)
- 6 regional and land-grant universities
- 3 state colleges
- 10 junior college districts (15 campuses)

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of the individual institutions. The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education has the authority to recommend policy changes to the governing board of any institution and to establish admission guidelines consistent with institutional missions. The 1979 Master Plan established general admission guidelines for the state's public postsecondary institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

The state master plan established general admission requirements for IHEs in its mission statements but did not set a rigid statewide minimum high school GPA and/or class rank as criteria for admission. These guidelines range from an open admissions policy for the two-year community/junior colleges and four-year state colleges, somewhat higher standards for the state universities, and the highest admission standards for the University of Missouri campuses.

- a. University of Missouri at Kansas City: Students' high school class rank and scores on one of four college aptitude tests (ACT, SAT, PSAT or SCAT) are converted to percentile rank form and summed. Admission is granted if the sum of the two percentile ranks is 75 or greater.
- b. Central Missouri State University: Students must rank in the upper two-thirds of their high school graduating class.
- c. Southeast and Southwest Missouri State Universities: Entering students must rank in the upper two-thirds of their high school graduating class or score above the 33rd percentile on a college admissions test.
- d. Northwest Missouri State University: Students must rank in the upper two-thirds of their graduating class and/or have an ACT composite score of 18 or higher.
- e. Missouri Western State College: Open admissions policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

The regional universities may practice relatively open admission when individuals in their areas do not have access to public community colleges. All of the institutions discussed above have special admission policies for students not meeting institutional requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

The Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education is considering a new model college preparatory high school curriculum to serve as a guideline for institutional admission standards.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

MONTANA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 6 four-year colleges (Montana University system)
- 3 community colleges

2. Who sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Regents of the Montana University system establishes admission requirements for the six public colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

There is an open admission policy for graduates of any accredited Montana high school. It is recommended that all entering freshmen take four years of English, three years of mathematics, two years of science, three years of social studies, two years of a foreign language, and one year of fine arts. Additional course work is recommended for students planning to specialize in a number of fields.

4. Special Admission Policies

Units of the Montana University System may establish procedures for applicants who do not meet minimum requirements for admission. These procedures, which must be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education, must include submission of evidence of the ability to do college-level work.

5. Anticipated changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Montana University System, *Policy and Procedures Manual*, Section 301: Admission Requirements.

NEBRASKA

1. Number and Type of IHEs

- 1 university (3 campuses)
- 4 state colleges
- 6 area community colleges (14 campuses)

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Regents establishes admission standards for the University of Nebraska. The State College Board of Trustees sets standards for the state colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

After course-work requirements go into effect, not more than 5 percent of the full-time entering fall freshman class at the University may be admitted without meeting the new requirements if they show promise of success in college. In addition, high school students not meeting any of these requirements may be granted conditional admission if they have successfully completed three years of English and one year of algebra.

5. Anticipated Changes

Starting in 1986, freshmen entering the University of Nebraska must successfully complete four years of high school English and two years each of mathematics, science, and social science. Graduates of accredited high schools who do not meet these course-work requirements may be admitted if they rank in the upper half of their high school class or have a composite ACT score of 18 or composite SAT score of 850.

A Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education may recommend proposals to tighten further the University of Nebraska's admission standards, possibly by requiring satisfactory test scores.

6. Published Information

University of Nebraska, *Policy on Admission to the University of Nebraska*, Revised. October 15, 1982.

NEVADA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 2 universities
- 4 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada System establishes admission standards for the two public universities and the four community colleges.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Nevada: Admission to freshman standing requires graduation from an accredited or approved high school with a minimum GPA of 2.3. State residents may seek admission to freshman-on-probation status with a high school GPA between 2.00 and 2.29 or with less than a 2.0 GPA but satisfactory scores on the ACT or SAT.
- b. Community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

An applicant who does not satisfy the minimum undergraduate academic requirements for the University of Nevada may apply for probationary consideration through the Special Admissions Program. Applicants are evaluated on test scores and evidence of readiness, achievement, and motivation to succeed in college. This category is limited to 4 percent of each campus's freshman enrollments for the previous year.

5. Anticipated changes

The Board of Regents recently approved course-work requirements for students entering the two public universities. These requirements are four years of English, three years each of mathematics, social studies, and natural science and one-half year of computer literacy. The timetable for implementation is currently being discussed.

6. Published Information

University of Nevada System, Board of Regents, *Title 4: Codification of Board Policy Statements*. Chapter 16, Student Admission, Registration, Grades and Examinations. Rev. 68 (4/84).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university
- 2 state colleges
- 1 community college
- 7 vocational-technical colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards for the state colleges and university are established by the governing boards of the individual institutions. Policies for the vocational-technical colleges are set by the Division of Postsecondary Education for the State of New Hampshire.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of New Hampshire: Primary consideration is given to academic achievement and aptitude, as demonstrated by high school course work, rank in class, recommendations and SAT scores. It is recommended that candidates complete four years

of English and mathematics, three years each of laboratory science and a foreign language, and two years of social science.

- b. Plymouth State College: High school performance and SAT scores are considered in the admissions process. It is recommended that students complete a minimum of three years of college preparatory mathematics.
- c. Keene College: Admission criteria include high school course work, grades and SAT scores.
- d. Vocational-technical and community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Students not meeting the admission standards of the state colleges and universities may enroll in a General Studies Program or as nonmatriculated students.

5. Anticipated Changes

A University System of New Hampshire Task Force on Enrollment Planning issued a report in June 1983. The report recommended that institutions not reduce standards in order to maintain enrollments.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

University System of New Hampshire. *Final Report of the USNH Task Force on Enrollment Planning*. June 1983.

NEW JERSEY

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university (3 campuses)
- 1 university of medicine and dentistry (3 colleges)
- 9 state colleges
- 1 institute of technology (contract)
- 17 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The State Department of Higher Education establishes minimum admission standards. The governing boards of the individual colleges and universities may set more stringent admission requirements.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Entering freshmen must complete a minimum of 16 units of college preparatory subjects, including four units of English, two of mathematics (including one of algebra), two of social studies and one of laboratory science. Students matriculating after July 1987 must complete an additional unit of mathematics and of science. The five units of electives must be drawn from the above subjects and foreign language.

- a. Rutgers University: Admission is based on a review of students' grades, class rank, strength of high school program, test scores and extracurricular ac-

tivities. Students must also have completed a minimum of 16 academic units in high school. Specific subject requirements vary by college.

- b. Trenton State College: Criteria for admission include students' high school records and SAT scores.
- c. Stockton State College: Applicants will be admitted so long as spaces are available if they are in the top 50 percent of their high school class, and have a minimum composite ACT score of 21 or SAT score of 950. Minimum test scores vary according to class rank.

Note: The state colleges must submit a profile of their entering classes annually to the state. This profile, which uses a "basic academic index" combining high school rank and SAT scores, must show a steady state or an improvement each year. As a result, the state colleges use this index as an admission criterion.

4. Special Admission Policies

The statewide Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program is designed to meet the educational and financial needs of a limited number of students who may not meet institutional admission standards and whose economic backgrounds make it difficult to attend college without financial assistance. Applicants to the program are evaluated at the institutional level, on the basis of accomplishments and recommendations concerning potential. Students admitted under the EOF program must constitute a minimum of 10 percent of New Jersey residents in the entering freshman class. Students admitted through the colleges' special admission program may not exceed 10 percent of the entering freshman class. Students admitted through a college's special admission policy may be exempted from the high-school-graduation and course-distribution requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

The only changes planned are the increased high school course-work requirements described above.

6. Published Information

New Jersey State College Administrative Code. Subchapter 1: Admissions Policies. November 1984.

NEW MEXICO

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 5 state colleges and universities
- 1 specialized college
- 14 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The governing boards of individual institutions set admission standards.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of New Mexico: The minimum requirement for admission is a GPA of at least 2.0 and one of the following: (1) completion of 13 specified high school college preparatory courses with a 2.0 average or better or (2) meeting of specified standards based on class rank in combination with ACT or SAT scores. This standard in 1983 was: top 25 percent of class/ACT of 5-9 or SAT (not specified); top 50 percent of class/ACT of 10-13 or SAT (not specified); top 75 percent of class/ACT of 14-18 or SAT of 700-839; or no rank requirement/ACT of 19 or higher or SAT of 840 or higher.
- b. New Mexico State University: Entering students must complete 15 units of specified high school subjects with a minimum GPA of 2.0 or have a composite ACT score of at least 19. Students must take the specified 15 units, which include three years of English, one year each of social studies and science, and two to three years of mathematics.

4. Special Admission Policies

Students with a 2.0 GPA who do not meet the other admission standards at the University of New Mexico may be admitted upon approval by a subcommittee of the Committee on Admissions and Registration. The total number of such admissions cannot exceed 5 percent of the previous year's freshman class. Students not meeting the admission requirements at New Mexico State University may be admitted under a provisional program.

5. Anticipated Changes

The test score/class rank standard at the University of New Mexico will become progressively more stringent in subsequent years.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

NEW YORK

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 university centers
- 13 colleges of arts and sciences
- 4 health/science centers (two of which are part of a university center)
- 10 specialized colleges (five of which are located at private universities)
- 6 agricultural and technical colleges
- 29 community colleges

Note: The public IHEs listed are in the State University of New York system.

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission requirements are established by the governing boards of the individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University centers (SUNY - Albany, SUNY - Buffalo, SUNY - Binghamton and SUNY - Stony Brook): These institutions consider some combination of the following four factors in making admission decisions: high school average, average of all end-of-course Regents Examinations, rank in class, and ACT or SAT scores.
- b. Colleges of arts and sciences:
SUNY - Fredonia: Applicants must have completed 16 academic credits, maintained a GPA of 2.5 and earned a combined score of 800 SAT or 18 ACT.
SUNY - Geneseo: Admission decisions are based on high school GPA, Regents Examination scores, rank-in-class and ACT or SAT scores.
SUNY - Purchase: The college encourages applicants with high school averages of 80 or better who have followed academic programs and have obtained commensurate SAT or ACT scores.

4. Special Admission Policies

Most of the state colleges and universities participate in the Educational Opportunity Program which provides academic and financial support to capable students who are educationally and financially disadvantaged. Special admission and financial-aid procedures are used to evaluate applicants to this program.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

State University of New York, Office of Access Services.
SUNY Profiles, 1984-85.

NORTH CAROLINA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 16 state colleges and universities
- 23 community colleges
- 35 vocational-technical institutions

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina establishes minimum admission standards for the 16 state colleges and universities. Subject to these minimum standards, the boards of trustees of the individual institutions may set admissions policies and resolve individual admission questions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Admission requirements at the state colleges and universities vary by institution. The following descriptions show the range of IHE requirements.

- a. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Admission is based on a student's high school record and college-entrance-test scores. A prescribed pattern of high school course work is also required.
- b. University of North Carolina at Wilmington: Students must complete a specified pattern of high school course work, have a minimum composite score on the ACT of 18 and a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- c. North Carolina State University: Entering freshmen must meet a minimum Predicted Grade Average (PGA) computed on the basis of high school GPA and SAT or ACT test scores. Prospective students should also have completed a specified pattern of high school course work.
- d. Western Carolina University: Consideration is given to academic records, rank in class, and test scores. No high school course-work requirements are stated.
- e. East Carolina University: Students must complete a specified pattern of high school course work and submit satisfactory scores on the SAT.

4. Special Admission Policies

The president of the University of North Carolina will develop standards and procedures for making any exceptions to the minimum course-work procedures before they are implemented in 1988. Most institutions have special programs for students not meeting institutional admission requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1988, all freshmen entering state colleges and universities must have completed four years of English, and three years each of mathematics, science, and social studies. It is recommended that prospective students also complete at least two years of one foreign language and take a foreign language course and mathematics course in the twelfth grade.

6. Published Information

Board of Governors, the University of North Carolina. *The Code*. July 1975; as amended through March 12, 1982.
Board of Governors, the University of North Carolina. *Delegations of Duty and Authority to the Board of Trustees*. July 7, 1972; as amended through July 29, 1983.
Board of Governors, the University of North Carolina. *Recommended Minimum General Criteria for Admission*. Adopted 2/10/84.

NORTH DAKOTA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 2 universities
- 4 four-year colleges
- 5 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

A historic interpretation of the state constitution has led to no institutional admission standards for entering freshmen beyond a high school diploma. The state has determined, however, that the State Board of Higher Education has constitutional and statutory authority to allow some institutions in the system to establish additional admissions requirements.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Open admission policy. However, institutions practice selective admissions in at least 40 programs because of program capacity limitations and/or curriculum requirements. Selective admissions within the institutions generally occur at the sophomore level.

4. Special Admission Policies

Not relevant.

5. Anticipated Changes

The State Board of Higher Education considered a proposal to instate admission requirements at some of the state institutions in 1983. A decision was made to retain the open admission policy.

6. Published Information

Background papers prepared for members of the State Board of Higher Education, July 6, 1983, and October 6, 1983.

OHIO

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 12 universities
- 25 two-year technical and community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Under state law, any graduate of an Ohio high school is entitled to admission to any public college or university without examination. The governing boards of individual institutions may require students to complete specified high school course work as the basis for unconditional admission.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

In 1981, the Ohio Board of Regents and the State Board of Education recommended that all college-bound students take four years of English, at least three years of mathematics, three years of social studies, three years of science, and at

least two years of the same foreign language. Nine of the 12 public universities now require completion of this curriculum, with some minor variations, for unconditional admission. A number of two-year colleges have also endorsed some or all of these curricular expectations.

4. Special Admission Policies

Universities with course-work requirements have provisions that allow students to correct course-work deficiencies.

5. Anticipated Changes

Two universities are acting on course-work requirements.

6. Published Information

Ohio Revised Code: 3345.06. (College) Entrance Requirements of High School Graduates. As cited in Ohio Board of Regents, *Report of the Advisory Commission on Articulation between Secondary Education and Ohio Colleges*, April 1981, Appendix B.

Ohio Board of Regents. *Handbook of Ohio Colleges and Universities*.

"Articulation Commission Recommendations on College Preparatory Curricula: Status of University Actions," May 2, 1984 (mimeo).

OKLAHOMA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

12 universities
14 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has the authority to establish admission standards for institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. Comprehensive universities: Effective July 1985, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.1, or rank in the top half of their graduating class, or have a composite ACT score of 17 (or an equivalent score on a similar test) to qualify for admission to the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University.
- b. Regional and special purpose universities: To be eligible for admission to any of the other 10 state universities starting in July 1985, students must have a minimum GPA of 2.8, or rank in the upper two-thirds of their high school class, or have a composite ACT score of 14 or an equivalent score on a similar test.
- c. Community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Each institution in the State System may admit up to 5 percent of its entering freshman class under a "special talent waiver." Students must be high school graduates and demonstrate unusual artistic talents or be educationally or economically handicapped students who show promise of being able to succeed at the institution admitting them.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective July 1988, students seeking admission to all three types of institutions must have completed four years of English, three years of mathematics, two years each of science and history, and four additional units from selected academic courses.

6. Published Information

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, *Policy Statement on Admission to, Retention in, and Transfer among College and Universities in the State System*. August 30, 1984.

OREGON

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

8 state colleges and universities
13 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Oregon Board of Higher Education sets minimum admission requirements for all State System colleges and universities. The community colleges are autonomous and set their own standards.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Effective fall 1985, all students entering the eight state colleges and universities must have completed four years of English, three years of mathematics, two years of science, three years of social studies, and two additional units of college preparatory courses. Two years of a foreign language are strongly recommended. Students may satisfy the subject requirements by scoring an average of 410 or above (1,230 total) on three College Board achievement tests, by taking make-up course work, or by earning a minimum of 2.00 GPA in nine term hours of prescribed college summer-session work.

Students must also present a minimum GPA, which varies by institution from 2.25 (one institution) to 2.75 (University of Oregon and Oregon State University). Alternatives to the GPA requirement are as follows: SAT or ACT scores and high school grades to predict a 2.00 college GPA (University of Oregon and Oregon State University); 890 SAT or 20 ACT (at two IHEs); 890 SAT or 20 ACT or 2.00 predicted college GPA (at three IHEs); or earn a minimum

2.0 GPA in nine term hours of prescribed college summer-session work.

To enroll in the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, students must score a minimum of 30 on the College Board's Test of Standard Written English (TSWE) or 12 on the English portion of the ACT (ACT-E). Students enrolling at Southern Oregon State College must score a minimum of 30 TSWE or 15 ACT-E or take a prescribed writing course.

4. Special Admission Policies

Institutions are authorized to admit a number of freshmen totaling no more than 5 percent of the institution's previous year's freshman class as exceptions to the stated admission requirements. Applicants are considered on a case-by-case basis. In 1985 and 1986, exceptions to the course-work requirements will be granted to students whose high schools certify that the required courses were not offered. This exemption will expire in 1987.

5. Anticipated Changes

The minimum GPA and high school course-work requirements were raised recently. Two years of a foreign language may be required, starting in 1988.

6. Published Information

Oregon State System of Higher Education. *Admission Requirements and Implementation Guidelines, 1985-86*. September 1, 1984.

Oregon State System of Higher Education. *1984-85 Oregon College Guide*.

PENNSYLVANIA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 14 universities
- 14 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Admission policies vary across the 14 universities. The community colleges have an open admissions policy.

- a. Pennsylvania State University: Admission is determined by an "evaluation index" which is a composite of students' high school records and SAT scores. Students must also complete a specified pattern of high school course work.
- b. Mansfield University: Students must score 800 or better on the SAT or 19 or better on the ACT and rank in the upper three-fifths of their graduating

class. Completion of a specified pattern of high school course work is recommended.

- c. Millersburg, Shippensburg, and Bloomsburg Universities: Students must show satisfactory achievement on the SAT or ACT.

4. Special Admission Policies

Pennsylvania State University: Up to 10 percent of the total admission group for the University may be admitted through specialized programs, designed to assist students who do not meet entrance requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

ACT 484 of 1963. *The Community College Act*. P.L. 1132 as amended through 1980.

Act 1982-188. *Laws of Pennsylvania. Article XX-A. The State System of Higher Education*. November 1982. Individual college catalogs.

RHODE ISLAND

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university
- 1 college
- 1 community college

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of the individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Admission to the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College is selective. Both institutions recommend that entering freshmen have completed four years of English, three (and preferably four) years of mathematics, two (and preferably three) years of science, two to three years of social studies, two years of a foreign language, and one or more units of fine arts. It is also recommended that students be familiar with computers.

The community college has an open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

None.

5. Anticipated Changes

Both the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College will require a prescribed pattern of high school course work for students entering in fall 1986. These changes are to conform to the new high school graduation requirements that will be in effect by that time.

6. Published Information

Preparing for Higher Education. Academic guidelines for high school students and their parents in preparing for New England's land grant universities.

Community College of Rhode Island. *Admissions Expectations for the Community College Student.*

SOUTH CAROLINA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

12 senior colleges and universities

21 community colleges (including 5 two-year branches of the University of South Carolina system)

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions or systems.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of South Carolina at Columbia: Students' high school records and college entrance examination scores (ACT or SAT) are considered in the admission decision.
- b. Clemson University: The admissions decision process considers students' SAT scores, rank in class, academic preparation and high school recommendations.
- c. University of South Carolina at Spartanburg: Students requesting regular admission must have a minimum SAT score of 700 (350 math and 350 verbal).
- d. The Citadel, Francis Marion, and Lander: Students must present a satisfactory score on the SAT or ACT.

4. Special Admission Policies

Vary by institution. Students with high GPAs but low SAT scores may be selected for participation in the Opportunity Scholars program at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective 1988, all new students enrolling in baccalaureate degree programs at 16 public colleges and universities must complete four years of English, three years each of mathematics and social studies, two years each of science and a foreign language, one year of physical education and one additional unit of math, computer science, or social studies. These requirements were recommended by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in June 1983 and formally accepted by 12 of the institutions in March 1984.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

6 public colleges and universities

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The South Dakota Board of Regents establishes admission standards for the six state colleges and universities.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. Black Hills State College, Dakota State College, Northern State College: Students entering these institutions must rank in the upper two-thirds of their high school graduating class or have an ACT score of 18. Open admission to junior college program.
- b. University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology: Students entering these schools must rank in the upper one-half of their high school graduating class or have an ACT score of 21. Students completing four years of English, two years of a foreign language, two years of algebra or advanced math, two years of lab sciences, and three years of social science with a GPA of 2.0 will be automatically admitted. There is open admission to junior college programs in the first two institutions.

4. Special Admission Policies

At Black Hills State, Dakota State and Northern State Colleges, individual exceptions are made to minimum admission standards based on special testing and student record, at the discretion of the college. At the remaining three institutions, up to 1 percent of the last year's freshman class can be admitted if the student has at least an 18 ACT score.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1987, a freshman entering any of the state colleges must have completed four years of English, two years of mathematics (with a third year highly recommended), two years of science (three years after 1989), three years of social studies, two years of one foreign language, and one-half year each of computer science and fine arts.

6. Published Information

South Dakota Board of Regents. *Admission Requirements: South Dakota Higher Education System*, n.d.

TENNESSEE

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 campuses of the University of Tennessee
- 6 state universities
- 10 community colleges
- 4 two-year technical institutes
- 26 area vocational-technical schools

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approves admission standards for institutions in the University of Tennessee system. Admission policies for the state universities, community colleges, technical institutes and area vocational-technical schools are approved by the Board of Regents for the State University and Community College System of Tennessee. The Board of Trustees and Board of Regents set general admission guidelines; institutions are free to establish their own standards within these guidelines.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Tennessee, Knoxville: High school graduates are automatically accepted if they meet one of the following three standards: 1) GPA of at least 2.75; 2) GPA of at least 2.4 and a minimum ACT of 15 or SAT of 670; or 3) GPA of at least 2.0 and a minimum ACT of 18 or SAT of 800. Students with a GPA below 2.00 and an ACT below 12 or SAT below 550 are automatically refused. A prescribed pattern of high school course work is also required, and varies by program.
- b. University of Tennessee, Chattanooga: High school graduates must have a minimum GPA of 2.00. Applicants with less than a 2.00 GPA may be admitted if they have an ACT composite score of at least 18 or a SAT score of at least 850. A prescribed pattern of high school course work is required, but requirements vary by program.
- c. State universities: The six state universities require high school graduates to present the following GPA or composite ACT score:

	Minimum GPA	or ACT score
Tenn. Technological University	2.35	17
Austin Peay State University	2.50	16
East Tenn. State University	2.30	16
Memphis State University	2.00	16
Middle Tenn. State University	2.00	16
Tenn. State University	2.00	10

- d. Community colleges: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

- a. University of Tennessee system: Students not meet-

ing admission standards may apply for qualified admission. Requirements for this program vary by institution.

- b. State University system: Each of the state universities has special procedures regarding admission of students who do not meet institutional requirements.

5. Anticipated Changes

Each campus of the University of Tennessee is in the process of formulating more rigorous admissions requirements along two general lines: (1) increasing the GPA/test score mix and/or (2) raising high school curricular requirements.

6. Published Information

- The University of Tennessee, *Handbook for Counselors: Admissions, Career Planning, Financial Assistance, Housing*, September 1984.
- The State University and Community College System of Tennessee. State Board of Regents. *Policy No. 2:03:00:00, Admissions*. December 16, 1983.
- The University of Tennessee. "Minimum Requirements for Regular Admission as a Beginning Freshman, 1980-81 and 1984-85." n.d.
- The University of Tennessee. "Summary of Minimum Requirements for Regular Admission to Two-Year Institutions as a Full-Time Beginning Freshman: (Fall 1984)." n.d.

TEXAS

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 37 universities
- 7 medical schools and health science centers
- 50 community college districts

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions. The Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System has been encouraging institutions to raise minimum GPA and test-score standards.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

Texas universities use a wide range of admission standards. Examples of these standards are given below:

- a. University of Texas at Austin: Students must have the following combination of high school class rank and SAT or ACT score for admission: top 25 percent of class, any score is acceptable; lower 75 percent of class, SAT of 1,100 or more or ACT of 27 or more. Students must also have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.
- b. Texas A & M University: Students must have the following combination of high school rank and SAT scores for admission: top 10 percent of class, no

minimum score; highest quarter of class, 800 SAT; second quarter of class, 950 SAT; third quarter of class, 1,100 SAT; bottom quarter of class, 1,200 SAT. Students must also have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.

- c. Texas A & M at Galveston: Students must have the following combination of high school rank and SAT scores for admission: top 10 percent of class, no minimum score; highest quarter of class, 800 SAT; second quarter of class, 800 SAT; third quarter of class, 900 SAT; bottom quarter of class, 1,000 SAT. Students must also have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.
- d. Stephen F. Austin State University: No minimum test score is required of students graduating in the upper half of their high school class. Those in the lower half must have an ACT score of 20 or higher or an SAT score of 900 or higher.
- e. Angelo State University: Applicants must rank in the upper one-half of their high school graduating class, or present a minimum composite score of 18 on the ACT or 800 on the SAT, or have scored 14-17 ACT or 690-790 SAT and have a 50 percent or greater probability of earning a 2.00 average at the university as computed from the students' high school grades and ACT or SAT scores.
- f. Southwest Texas State University: Entering freshmen must have a minimum ACT score of 15 or a minimum SAT score of 750, or have a satisfactory score on Southwest Texas State's predicted index, which is based on a combination of ACT or SAT scores and high school grades earned in English, science, mathematics, and social studies.
- g. Prairie View A & M University: Students are accepted for unconditional admission if they have a minimum GPA of 2.0, rank in the upper one-half of their high school class, and have a minimum ACT score of 14 or SAT score of 700. In addition, students may be admitted unconditionally if they have a minimum score of 800 SAT or 16 ACT or rank in the upper 25 percent of their graduating class.
- h. Pan American University: Students must have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.
- i. West Texas State University: Students must submit satisfactory scores on either the ACT or SAT. Completion of a prescribed pattern of high school course work is strongly recommended.
- j. Midwestern Texas State University: Open admission policy.

4. Special Admission Policies

Most of the institutions described above allow students who do not meet prescribed admission standards to be considered for admission under special programs and/or to enroll as provisional students the summer before their freshman

year with the requirement that they complete a specified number of courses with at least a 2.00 GPA.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

UTAH

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 4 four-year colleges and universities
- 5 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions and approved by the State Board of Regents, Utah System of Higher Education.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Utah: Students are admitted if they have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or give evidence of a predicted GPA at the University of 1.8 or higher. Students must also have completed four years of English and one year of algebra.
- b. Southern Utah State College: Open admissions.

4. Special Admission Policies

Special policies exist for admission of nontraditional students, and for students scoring below 15 on the ACT.

5. Anticipated Changes

- a. University of Utah: Effective fall 1987, high school students must complete one year of mathematics, three years of science, four years of social studies and two years of fine arts in addition to the four years of English and year of algebra currently required. The University reviewed, and rejected, proposals to impose a minimum ACT score, raise the minimum GPA, and/or impose an enrollment ceiling.
- b. Southern Utah State College: Beginning in 1987, entering freshmen will be required to have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.

Other state IHEs have upgraded admission standards as well in the last year.

6. Published Information

Woolf, E. T. "Institutional Initiative on Setting Admissions Standards." Utah System of Higher Education, 1984. Individual college catalogs.

VERMONT

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university
- 3 state colleges
- 1 two-year technical college
- 1 community college

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

University of Vermont: Qualification for admission is based on students' high school record, rank in graduating class, written expression, SAT scores and other pertinent information. A prescribed pattern of high school course work is also required.

4. Special Admission Policies

Where appropriate, special consideration will be given to students coming from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

VIRGINIA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 15 four-year colleges and universities
- 24 two-year colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission criteria are established by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Virginia: Admission is selective, based on grades, class rank, performance in Advanced Placement and honors courses, and scores on College Board Achievement Tests. Students must also complete a prescribed pattern of high school course work.
- b. William and Mary: A prescribed pattern of high school course work is strongly recommended, and students are required to submit SAT scores.
- c. James Madison University: Entering freshmen must provide (1) evidence of satisfactory preparation to pursue college-level work as shown by high school grades and (2) an acceptable score on the SAT, and

must have completed a prescribed pattern of high school course work.

- d. Virginia State University: Students must present a satisfactory high school GPA and SAT scores. It is recommended that they complete a prescribed pattern of high school course work.

4. Special Admission Policies

A statewide desegregation plan is designed to increase minority enrollment through enrichment programs. Minority students who have participated in these programs may be admitted to state IHEs with an SAT score or GPA below that normally required.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

WASHINGTON

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 5 state universities
- 1 state college
- 27 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are established by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Washington: Uses an admission index score that combines high school GPA and test scores. Students may submit scores from the ACT, SAT, or Washington Pre-College Test. Students must also complete a prescribed pattern of high school course work.
- b. Evergreen State College: Students must rank in the upper half of their high school class.
- c. Central Washington, Eastern Washington, Washington State and Western Universities: A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required, and a prescribed pattern of high school course work is recommended.
- d. Community colleges: Open admission policies.

4. Special Admission Policies

None cited.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1987, Central Washington University will require a prescribed high school curriculum. The state legisla-

ture is studying curriculum-oriented changes in admission standards.

6. Published Information

State of Washington, Council for Postsecondary Education.
Admission Requirements: Public Four-Year Institutions,
August 6, 1983.

WEST VIRGINIA

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 2 universities
- 8 four-year state colleges
- 3 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The West Virginia Board of Regents establishes minimum admission standards for four-year public institutions. Institutions may develop more rigorous admissions policies and practices, subject to approval by the Board of Regents.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. State colleges and universities: High school graduates must have an overall GPA of at least 2.0 or a composite score of at least 14 on the ACT for regular admission. In addition, West Virginia University requires entering students to have completed four years of English and two years of college-preparatory mathematics, including one year of algebra.
- b. Community colleges: Admission to community colleges (including community college components at four-year institutions and branch campuses of two- and four-year institutions) is open to students with a high school diploma.

4. Special Admission Policies

State colleges and universities may grant conditional admission to students not meeting statewide requirements in cases where institutional officials have evidence that the student has the potential to successfully complete college-level work.

5. Anticipated Changes

The Board of Regents is considering proposals to require a prescribed pattern of high school course work for all students entering state colleges and universities. Statewide guidelines that specify minimum GPA and ACT requirements would not increase measurably.

6. Published Information

West Virginia Board of Regents. "Policy Regarding Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Institutional Admissions Standards," *Policy Bulletin No. 44*, July 13, 1982.

WISCONSIN

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 13 state universities
- 13 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin system (encompassing the 26 public IHEs) establishes minimum systemwide requirements. Individual institutions may adopt more stringent admission criteria.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

All students must have a high school diploma or its equivalent and have completed a minimum of nine units from six specified academic fields. In addition, students must meet the following institutional requirements:

- a. Eau Claire, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Parkside and Superior: Students must rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class. At four of the institutions, ACT or SAT scores may be considered as a basis for admission for those not meeting the class rank requirement. Three of the IHEs also require a more stringent pattern of high school academic course work (16 units) than the statewide minimum.
- b. Stevens Point: Students must rank in the upper 70 percent of their graduating class. Those in the 20th-29th percentile may qualify for admission with an ACT minimum score of 17 (or SAT equivalent).
- c. La Crosse, Oshkosh, Platteville, River Falls, Stout and Whitewater: Students must rank in the top 75 percent of their graduating class. Those in the bottom quartile may qualify for admission to one of these institutions with an ACT minimum score of 20 (900 SAT) or to three other institutions with an ACT minimum score of 17 (or SAT equivalent).
- d. Community colleges: Applicants in the lower quarter of their high school class must meet with a counselor before they are allowed to register. Remedial work and/or course-load restrictions may be required.

4. Special Admission Policies

Students not meeting class-rank or test-score requirements may be considered for admission if, on the basis of other factors, they show a reasonable probability of success in college. Particular consideration will be given to veterans, older students, members of minority groups, and those who are educationally or economically disadvantaged.

5. Anticipated Changes

Effective fall 1986, two more state universities will require 16-17 units of academic high school course work for admission. No other changes in admission standards are anticipated.

6. Published Information

Office of Information Services, University of Wisconsin System. *1984-85 Introduction to the University of Wisconsin System*. Madison, Wisconsin, n.d.

WYOMING

1. Number and Type of Public IHEs

- 1 university
- 7 community colleges

2. Who Sets Admission Standards?

Admission standards are set by the governing boards of individual institutions.

3. Current Admission Standards for In-state Students

- a. University of Wyoming: All graduates of accredited Wyoming high schools will be admitted without examination to the University.
- b. Community colleges: Open admission policies.

4. Special Admission Policies

Special policies apply to students without a high school diploma.

5. Anticipated Changes

None cited.

6. Published Information

Individual college catalogs.

REFERENCES

- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the College Board. *Undergraduate Admissions: The Realities of Institutional Policies, Practices, and Procedures*. New York: College Entrance Examination Board, 1980.
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